REMARKS

Claims 1-29 and 32 are presented for examination. The above claims have been amended to better conform to U.S. practice. Applicants respectfully request substantive examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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Monica L. Croom
Date of Signature: August 17, 2001

Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page one, following the title "Receptor Assay", please insert --This application claims priority from Great Britain Patent No. 9903467.3, filed February 2, 1999, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 30 and 31.

Please amend the claims as follows.

6. (Amended) The assay according to **[any preceding]** claim 1 wherein said assay is used to identify compounds that disrupt normal membrane receptor interactions, or can in themselves disrupt such interactions.

7. (Amended) The assay according to **[any preceding]** claim 1 for detecting a compound which serves as an inverse agonist, antagonist or agonist of the membrane receptor.

9. (Amended) The assay according to **[any preceding]** claim 1 wherein said membrane receptor is a growth factor receptor, cytokine receptor, ion channel, integrin, or G-protein receptor.

13. (Amended) The assay according to **[any one of claims 9-12]** claim 9 wherein said G-protein coupled receptor is a dopamine receptor, a muscarinic cholinergic receptor, an

α-adrenergic receptor, a β-adrenergic receptor, an opiate receptor, **[an]** a cannabinoid receptor, a serotonin receptor or a protease activated receptor.

14. (Amended) The assay according to **[any preceding]** claim 1 wherein the receptor/reporter fusion protein is expressed from nucleic acid construct comprising a gene encoding said reporter protein which is fused in-frame to the 5' or 3' end of a gene encoding said membrane receptor.

15. (Amended) The assay according to **[any preceding]** claim 1 wherein the functionality of said membrane receptor/reporter fusion protein is substantially unaffected by fusion of the reporter protein to the receptor.

16. (Amended) The assay according to **[any preceding]** claim 15 wherein said reporter protein is Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP), or active variant thereof.

18. (Amended) The assay according to **[any one of claims 1-15]** claim 15 wherein said reporter protein is *Renilla reniformis* (sea pansy) luciferase protein, secreted placental alkaline phosphatase (SEAP), β-lactamase, galactosidase, firefly (*Photinus pyralis*) luciferase, blue fluorescent protein, yellow fluorescent protein, and cyan fluorescent protein.

20. (Amended) The assay according to **[any preceding]** claim 1 wherein said reporter protein is used to localize and/or quantify the membrane receptor.

21. (Amended) An assay according to **[any preceding]** claim 20 wherein any change of said membrane receptor/reporter fusion protein is detected as a change in cellular localisation of the receptor/reporter fusion protein, or semi-quantitatively by the synthesis or degradation of said receptor/reporter fusion protein.

22. (Amended) An assay according to**[any preceding]** claim 1 wherein said detection of any change of said membrane receptor/reporter fusion protein is carried out with cells placed on the surface of a microscope slide.

23. (Amended) The assay according to **[any preceding]** claim 1 wherein said detection of any change of said membrane receptor/reporter fusion protein is carried out on cells placed in a well of a microtitre plate **[or the like, such as a 96-well plate]**.

29. (Amended) The membrane receptor/reporter fusion protein according to **[either of claims 27 or]** claim 28 wherein the reporter protein is GFP or luciferase.

Please add the following new claim.

32. (New) The membrane receptor/reporter fusion protein according to claim 27 wherein the reporter protein is GFP or luciferase.